

Introduction to the Spiritual Journey

Script of the video by the two General Superiors:

Carmel Swords IBVM and Veronica Fuhrmann CJ

Warmest greetings to all members worldwide. IBVM and CJ are in the final stage of our preparatory process of merger, which will be completed with the canonical step of uniting the two congregations in November this year. A basic premise of the Spiritual Exercises is that the Creator deals directly with the creature and the creature deals directly with the Creator. Over the next six months, a joint spiritual journey will afford each one of us a precious opportunity to have a heart to heart conversations with Jesus to help us prepare ourselves personally and communally for this historic step and the new reality evolving from it. We invite all sisters, companions and friends - the whole worldwide Mary Ward family - to participate in this journey towards Being One.

A group of six sisters from IBVM and CJ have prepared this spiritual process. They provide us with special material, which will be available at the beginning of each month, for the next six months. The resources include proposals and creative ideas for use in personal reflection and prayer, as well as in communities and circles of friends. Our community and personal realities will shape this spiritual journey. Let us take time to reflect and ponder on the material, so that the months will unfold as a meaningful journey. It is the personal responsibility of each one of us to engage as fully as possible.

All are encouraged to connect to the worldwide Mary Ward family by visiting the IBVM and CJ generalate websites. The padlet is available as a space to enable us to exchange our thoughts, experiences, hopes and questions in a worldwide circle. Please encourage your families and friends to join in this journey, to participate in the different activities and to share their perspective with the wider circle.

We are looking forward to these months of deepening our already existing union by opening up even more wholeheartedly to the new shores, towards which we have been journeying together over the past number of years. We have reached a decisive phase and we are convinced that the varying encounters in these coming months will help us to discover that Being One will bring a freshness yet unexplored. As Mary Ward's companions, an innate joy enables us to generously embrace the unknown which lies ahead. We trust in God's promise to give us a future and a hope! (Jer 29,11)

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